

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5820

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SUBJ: UN COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING: FEBRUARY 11

1. THE SECOND SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING OPENED FEBRUARY 11. IN BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT, CHAIRMAN DADZIE (GHANA) SUGGESTED THE PRINCIPLE TASK OF THE SESSION WAS TO AGREE ON PROBLEM AREAS WHICH MERITED PRIORITY ATTENTION BOTH BY THE COMMITTEE ITSELF AND BY THE INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP (AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE AT THE FIRST SESSION BUT NOT YET SET UP). MORNING SESSION CONCLUDED WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AS CONTAINED IN A/AC.179/2) AND THE INTRODUCTION OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHY PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIAT (A/AC.179/3.)

2. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE AFTERNOON SESSION, CHAIRMAN DADZIE ANNOUNCED THAT INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS HAD CONCLUDED ON THE UNFILLED BUREAU POSITIONS. SUBSEQUENTLY LOUIS GONZALES ARIAS (PARAGUAY) AND DOUGLAS STURKEY (AUSTRALIA) WERE ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION AS VICE CHAIRMAN AND RAPPORTEUR, RESPECTIVELY.

3. ONLY SPEAKER DURING FIRST DAY WAS ILO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BLANCHARD WHO CAUTIONED AGAINST UPSETTING THE EXISTING SYSTEM, WHICH HAD WORKED RELATIVELY WELL, SIMPLY
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FOR THE SAKE OF REFORM. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE COMMITTEE

FOCUS ITS EFFORTS ON IMPROVING THE ABILITY OF THE UN TO CONCEPTUALIZE GLOBAL POLICY AND IMPROVING THE NEGOTIATION FUNCTION. IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORMER, BLANCHARD EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO IMPROVE ECOSOC'S ROLE, IN PARTICULAR TO ENHANCE ITS CAPACITY TO TAKE A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO PROBLEMS. HE ENDORSED THE EXPERTS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR SHORTER, MORE FREQUENT ECOSOC MEETINGS DEVOTED TO SPECIFIC TOPICS AND GREATER USE OF AND CONSULTATION WITH SPECIALIZED AGENCIES IN THIS CONNECTION. AS REGARDS NEGOTIATIONS, BLANCHARD SUGGESTED THAT GREATER USE BE MADE OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AS THE FORA FOR NEGOTIATIONS. BLANCHARD ARGUED FOR DECENTRALIZATION (LINKING RESEARCH AND NORMATIVE ACTIVITIES WITH OPERATIONS) IN TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES AND CHIDED UNDP FOR FALLING SHORT IN PRACTICE OF THE PARTNERSHIP APPROACH. FINALLY, BLANCHARD CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE "CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE" (NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTERS FOCUSING ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS) AND UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTRACTING GOOD PERSONNEL INTO THE UN SYSTEM.

MOYNIHAN

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